

**PENDING CLAIMS**

95. A system, comprising:

- a) a target nucleic acid, said target nucleic acid comprising a first region and a second region, said second region downstream of said first region;
- b) a first oligonucleotide comprising a 3' portion and a 5' portion;
- c) a second oligonucleotide; and
- d) a third oligonucleotide;

wherein at least said 3' portion of said first oligonucleotide is complementary to said first region of said target nucleic acid, wherein at least a portion of said second oligonucleotide is complementary to said second region of said target nucleic acid, and wherein said 5' portion of said first oligonucleotide is complementary to said at least a portion of said third oligonucleotide.

96. The system of Claim 95, wherein said third oligonucleotide comprises a label.

97. The system of Claim 95, wherein said label comprises a fluorophore.

98. The system of Claim 95, wherein said label comprises a fluorophore having quenched emission.

99. The system of Claim 95, wherein said label is selected from the group consisting of biotin, a radiolabel, a hapten, a detectable nucleic acid, a peptide, a chromophore, and a dye.

100. The system of Claim 95, further comprising a solid support attached to at least one of said first, second and third oligonucleotides.

101. The system of Claim 100, wherein said first oligonucleotide is attached to said solid support.

102. The system of Claim 100, wherein said second oligonucleotide is attached to said solid support.

103. The system of Claim 100, wherein said third oligonucleotide is attached to said solid support.

104. The system of Claim 95, wherein said first and said second regions of said target nucleic acid are adjacent to each other.

105. The system of Claim 95, wherein said portion of said second oligonucleotide complementary to said second region of said target nucleic acid comprises a 3' terminus.

106. The system of Claim 95, wherein said third oligonucleotide comprises a hairpin structure that comprises a duplex region adjacent to a single-stranded 3' arm.

107. The system of Claim 106, wherein said portion of said third oligonucleotide that is complementary to said 5' portion of said first oligonucleotide comprises at least a region of said single-stranded 3' arm of said hairpin structure.

108. The system of Claim 107, wherein said region of said single-stranded 3' arm is adjacent to said duplex region of said hairpin structure.